

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9314

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 9446

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ASEC, UR, US
SUBJECT: HARASSMENT OF U.S. EMBASSY

1. WE HAVE BEEN GETTING INQUIRIES FROM THE PRESS IN RECENT DAYS ABOUT INCREASED HARASSMENT OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL. DESPITE PRESS REPORTS TO THE CONTRARY THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY INCREASE IN HARASSMENT OF EMBOFFS DURING THE LAST MONTH. THE ONLY SERIOUS INCIDENT CONCERNED AARMA MILLER. SECOND SECRETARY BYRNES, WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN THE SUBJECT OF FAIRLY SEVERE, THOUGH INTERMITTENT HARASSMENT, HAS HAD NO PROBLEMS SINCE THE END OF APRIL. FIRST SECRETARY PRESEL, WHO WAS OSTENTATIOUSLY TAILED AND THE SUBJECT OF OTHER UNPLEASANT FORMS OF KGB ATTENTION UNTIL AROUND JUNE 10 HAS SINCE RECEIVED THAT TREATMENT ON ONLY FOUR DAYS, JUNE 19-22, ALTHOUGH TELEPHONIC HARASSMENT CONTINUES. VARIOUS DAO OFFICERS REPORT SOME TAILING, BUT STATE THAT IT IS NOT UNUSUALLY HEAVY. THERE HAS, OF COURSE, BEEN THE TOTH CASE, BUT THAT DID NOT DIRECTLY CONCERN THE EMBASSY.

2. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO SERIOUS HARASSMENT, THERE HAS BEEN A SERIES OF MINOR PIN-PRICKS, NONE OF THEM IMPORTANT IN ITSELF BUT NVERTHELESS SLIGHTLY DISTURBING WHEN TAKEN TOGETHER. THESE SEEM DIRECTED MOSTLY NOT AGAINST SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS, BUT AGAINST
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THE EMBASSY AS A WHOLE. THUS, THERE HAS BEEN THE PROBLEMS WITH INCOMING POUCHES AT SHEREMETYEVO, A THEFT FROM A CAR BELONGING TO A TEACHER AT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN SCHOOL, THE SINGING AND SHOUTING OF THE MILITIAMEN ON DUTY IN FRONT OF THE CHANCERY LATE AT NIGHT, THE DETENTION OF SECOND SECRETARY SMITH AND WIFE IN TASHKENT, AND THE REFUSAL TO ALLOW ANY EMBASSY PRESENCE AT NAK-

HODKA DURING THE VISIT OF THE USCGC JARVIS. THE MOST RECENT PROBLEM OF THIS TYPE WAS THEIR REFUSAL TO ALLOW AN EMBOFF TO BE PRESENT AT THE U.S.-SOVIET WRITERS' CONFERENCE (SEPTTEL).

3. OUR BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT THE RECENT SPATE OF MINOR PROBLEMS IS NOT THE RESULT OF A CONSCIOUS DECISION TO STEP UP HARASSMENT OF THE EMBASSY. RATHER WE ATTRIBUTE IT TO A REALIZATION ON THE PART OF THOSE PORTIONS OF SOVIET BUREAUCRACY WITH WHOM WE COME IN CONTACT THAT THE DEMANDS OF DETENTE NO LONGER REQUIRE THEM TO GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO BE NICE TO THE EMBASSY THAT THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO GET INTO TROUBLE IF THEY ARE UNPLEASANT TO US. IT COULD BE THAT, IF THIS ATTITUDE BECOMES, IN FACT, THE GENERAL ONE HELD BY SOVIETS DEALING WITH US, WE COULD BE IN FORM MORE INCIDENTS IN THE FUTURE. HOWEVER, THUS FAR, ALTHOUGH WE ARE EVER ALERT TO PATTERNS OF ACTIONS BY SOVIETS, WE DO NOT SEE ANYTHING NEW IN THIS REGARD.
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